



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/824,265	04/14/2004	James F. Aaron	275143.100	6509
42161 7590 03/31/2008 MEYER UNKOVIC & SCOTT LLP 1300 OLIVER BUILDING PITTSBURGH, PA 15222			EXAMINER GARCIA, ERNESTO	
			ART UNIT 3679	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 03/31/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

MAILED
FROM DIRECTORS OFFICE

MAR 9 9 2008

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

Meyer Unkovic & Scott LLP
1300 Oliver Building
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

In re application of
James F. Aaron
Application No. 10/824,265
Filed: April 14, 2004
For: HEAVY-DUTY MAT PANEL
CONNECTOR AND SYSTEM FOR
CONNECTING MAT PANELS

**DECISION ON PETITION
TO MAKE SPECIAL FOR
NEW APPLICATION
UNDER 37 CFR 1.102**

This is a decision on the petition filed on March 17, 2008 to make the above-identified application special for Infringement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d).

The petition to make the application special is **DENIED**.

REGULATION AND PRACTICE

To be eligible for accelerated examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d) and pursuant to the "Change to Practice for Petitions in Patent Applications to Make Special and for Accelerated Examination" published in the Federal Register on June 26, 2006 (71 Fed. Reg. 36323), the following conditions must be satisfied:

1. The application must be a non-reissue utility or design application filed under 37 CFR 1.111(a);
2. The application, the petition and the required fees must be filed electronically using the USPTO's electronic filing system (EFS), or EFS-web; if not filed electronically, a statement asserting that EFS and EFS-web were not available during the normal business hours;
3. The application, at the time of filing, must be complete under 37 CFR 1.51 and in condition for examination;
4. The application must contain three or fewer independent claims and twenty or fewer total claims and the claims must be directed to a single invention.

The petition to make special for Infringement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d) is not acceptable at least because it was not filed with the application as required in the above Federal Register Notice of June 26, 2006. It appears that the petition was filed under the guidelines for making an application special that were in effect prior to August 25, 2006. As of August 25, 2006 the new guidelines replaced the old guidelines. Since applicant's petition was received on March 17, 2008, the petition must be considered under the new guidelines and thus is properly **DENIED**.

For the above-stated reasons, the petition is denied. The application will therefore be taken up by the examiner for action in its regular turn.

Any inquiry regarding this decision should be directed to Teri P. Luu, Quality Assurance Specialist, at (571) 272-7045.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Teri P. Luu', is written over a horizontal line.

Teri P. Luu,
Quality Assurance Specialist
Technology Center 3600

TL: 03/28/08